Kochi Airport in Kerala

1386. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint Sector airport at Kochi in Kerala is coming up;

(b) if so, the details thereof including financial liability of Government and Government's Part in running of the new airport; and

(c) when it will be ready for operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHU-LUM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) To finance construction of a new airport at Cochin, the Government of Kerala has set up a Society to mobilise funds from the public including Non-Resident Indian. The airport will be constructed by the State Government, The Central Government has no liability to finance this project. National Airports Authority will provide the technical consultancy and guidance. It is not possible to give, at this stage, the likely time of completion of the project.

Extension of Runway a port Pair

1387. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion of the Andaman and Nicobar administration to extend the runway at Port Blair has been put off; and

(b) if so, the objections raised along with the details of other extensions at other airports rejected on environmental grounds?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHU LAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The environmental clearance is being obtained by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. No extension of runway at any other airport has been rejected on environ-mental grounds so far.

Women pilots in the country

1388. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women pilots trained by various institutions in India during the last five years alongwith their names and the job status in private/public sector; and

(b) how many are unemployed and Whet is the offtake of women pilots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHU LAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A total of 74 women commercial pilots have been trained during the last five years. The names of these women pilots are indicated at Statement (See below)._ The Direct rate General of Civil Aviation does not-maintain records of employedun-employed pilots.